

23 Sept 2015

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input

Ranger District: Wapiti, Clarks Fork, Greybull Ranger Districts

Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

Fully support closing to vehicular use
Sweetwater Valley Rd and Elk Fork Rd

2. Provide comments below on the proposal:

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like for dislike about the proposal.

These are riparian valleys rich in native biodiversity both terrestrial and aquatic.

These riparian habitat corridors will become increasingly important, indeed critically important, in coming decades of global climate change to our native wildlife, particularly grizzly and black bears.

The wild life concerns alone justify closing these roads but there are other concerns.

1) Sedimentation (road erosion) tons of sediment going into Shoshone Reservoir

2) Fiscal drain on Forest budget (not justifiable)

From: "Charles R. Neal" [REDACTED]
Subject: **Riparian abuse on Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming**

Date: June 8, 2013 8:22:36 PM MDT

To: ttidwell@fs.fed.us

Cc: djiron@fs.fed.us, jabuchanan@fs.fed.us, wyoming@westernwatersheds.org,
FN-CEQ-OpenGov@ceq.eop.gov

4 Attachments, 443 KB

Dear Chief Tidwell,

This is a follow-up letter to the one that I wrote to you concerning riparian abuse by motor vehicles on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming on 10 May 2013.

I received an embarrassingly inadequate letter ostensibly written by the R-2 Regional Forester (in reality written by the Shoshone NF staff naturally justifying their mismanagement) in reply dated 28 May 2013. This letter did not address my concerns at all, just a general complaint implying that there is too much wilderness in the area and not enough roads. This is exactly what one would expect if my letter is bounced back to the misbehaving Forest in question.

Executive Orders have the FORCE and EFFECT of LAW and MUST be obeyed by all federal agencies. Their implementation is NOT optional. The national office of the Forest Service MUST ensure that these Executive Orders are implemented. They can NOT be bounced back to the offending forests for them to decide if they really want to enforce these Orders or (in the case of the Shoshone) merely to ignore them. To not enforce these Executive Orders is to expose the agency to legal challenge.

To illustrate that the Sweetwater Valley riparian abuse is not an isolated example, I am sending along four photos dramatically showing the degradation taking place in an adjacent riparian area, Elk Fork, also a tributary to the North Fork of the Shoshone River.

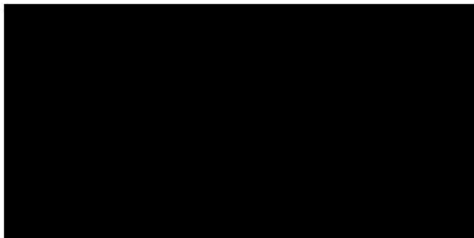
In the USFWS classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, December 1979, these riparian valleys fall into the Hierarchical category of Palustrine System, Scrub-Shrub Wetlands and Broad-leaved Deciduous.

I look forward to receiving a letter from your office in the near future informing me that you have taken the necessary steps to ensure that current Shoshone NF management will fully adhere to the letter and the spirit of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 both dated 1977, as well as Forest Service directives to maintain only ecologically and fiscally sustainable road systems, as well as adhering to the Public Trust Doctrine. These were all outlined in my letter to you dated 10 May 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Chuck" and "Neal" being capitalized and prominent.

Chuck Neal, Ecologist (ret.)





May 2011 Elk Fork



May 2011 Elk Fork



5 December 2012



5 December 2012

23 Sept 2015

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input

Ranger District: Wapiti, Clarks Fork, Greybull Ranger Districts

New
~~Current Proposals~~

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

Close entire Blackwater Cr. Rd. near
the current Blackwater Lodge & corrals
(N. Fork of Shoshone R.)

2. Provide comments below on the proposal:

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

There are three trailheads near the
Blackwater Lodge at present. There
is one more trailhead about one mile up
the Blackwater Rd.

Most horsemen and hikers park down
near the lodge so the road itself becomes
a superfluous intrusion into a rich riparian
valley used by most of our native wildlife
including grizzly bears.

This is another riparian habitat
corridor that will be critical in the
coming decades of climate change.